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RHMFIUU/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHINGTON DC  
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RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHMFIUU/FBI WASHINGTON DC  
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
REUHRL/USDAO BERLIN GE  
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL  
RUEPGDA/USEUCOM JIC VAIHINGEN GE  
RUEHDF/AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF 0247

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SIPDIS

STATE FOR EUR/CE, EUR/PGI, S/CT, IO/PSC AND EEB/ESC/TFS

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KISL](#) [KCRM](#) [PK](#) [UZ](#) [GM](#)

SUBJECT: ATTACK ON RAMSTEIN AFB PLANNED FOR ITS SYMBOLIC VALUE,  
TERRORIST SUSPECT SAYS

REF: DUESSELDORF 30

11. (U) Daniel Schneider, one of the defendants in the ongoing terrorist trial of the "Islamic Jihad Union" (IJU) Sauerland cell (reftel), testified before the Duesseldorf Higher Regional Court on September 15 that the group considered attacking the U.S. Air Force Base in Ramstein for its symbolic value. With this attack, the group wanted to draw negative attention to the U.S. military presence in Germany, according to Schneider, adding that they planned to gain access to the base with forged ID cards to deposit an explosive device and then flee the scene on foot.

12. (U) In testimony from September 16, another defendant, Atilla Selek, described the group's efforts to procure detonators from Turkey with the help of Mevluet Kar, a Turkish national who lived in Germany before he returned to Turkey in 2002. The Federal Court of Justice issued an arrest warrant for him based on his support of the terrorist group. According to Selek's testimony, Kar surprised him with insider knowledge about the group's membership and activities in Germany and Pakistan. Kar claimed he had gotten the information from a relative working for the Turkish intelligence service, MIT, implying that German authorities had shared the information with MIT. After learning from Kar that the group was under surveillance, Selek called Gelowicz, the confessed leader of the Sauerland cell, and asked him to stop preparations for attacks in Germany. However, as Gelowicz testified earlier, the group fell into a trap laid by the German intelligence services, who led the group to believe the surveillance by the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (OPC) had stopped, lulling the group into a false sense of security.

13. (SBU) In a related development, a high-placed source in the Court told the CG on September 15 that the judges dealing with this case were consistently astounded by the depth of the confessions made by the defendants. The most unexpected development was that Adem Yilmaz, the most militant and fundamentalist of the four defendants, now considers Ottmar Breidling, the presiding judge, as his Emir or leader. According to our source, Yilmaz, who initially refused to stand for the court and shouted at Breidling that he only stands for

Allah, now regularly turns to Breidling for assistance in making decisions. The Court expects to finish the trial by next spring.

14. (U) This message was coordinated with Embassy Berlin.

WEINER